which have a finite amount of data storage capability, can reduce the number of networks required to operate applications while concurrently increasing the number of applications that run on the reduced number of networks.

The NNFE has embarked upon an ambitious course to deliver widespread service oriented architectures to the fleet. As Bachmann explained, "We want to get to the position where we tell the Marines, 'Don't bring your systems on board, just bring your software. We'll load it for you, we'll host it, we'll protect it — and you will have uninterrupted service.' "

By reducing the number of networks needed to operate systems and applications, the Navy can then recapitalize resources into critical needs that the warfighter has already identified, such as improved bandwidth and satellite communication availability and real-time collaboration capabilities.

Reinvesting funds into Navy initiatives, such as Sea Warrior, which allows Sailors at sea to complete long-distance education, training and orders processing requirements, is high on the list of NNFE priorities.

"It is my intent to find IT investments that not only meet our warfighting requirements, but also provide our Sailors with the access they need to advance their careers and conduct their personal lives," Edwards said.

Today's bandwidth availability on Navy ships presents both mission and quality of life challenges. Edwards has noted that computers aboard aircraft carriers download information at 3.7 megabytes per second, while cruisers download at 0.64 megabytes per second and destroyers download at 0.128 megabytes per second. In comparison, the average college campus can download information at more than 45 megabytes per second and the average cell phone downloads at .4 megabytes per second.

Therefore, maximizing bandwidth is key to ensuring that a technologically savvy generation of Sailors and Marines is not disadvantaged while at sea. "It's hard for our new Sailors not to be discouraged when they find out that our cruisers, destroyers and frigates have less bandwidth than they typically have at home or on their cell phone," Edwards explained.

Shipboard and strike group networks have evolved to an essential part of the sensor-to-shooter information chain. Not surprisingly, networks have further evolved into providing far-reaching quality of life, educational, and recruiting and retention support. They are essential in coalition operations and in working with other federal agencies in support of homeland defense.

NNFE leadership and the organizations they represent have made tremendous progress. They have established discipline in the procurement process where there was little; they have brought rigor to discussions of capability, entitlements and requirements where there were none; and they have planned a roadmap for the future. The task will continue to be challenging because information technology is the fastest growing, most rapidly changing element of our society.

The needs are many, but the NNFE is dedicated to providing all these tools, and more, to the warfighter. CHIPS

NSIPS Now Available Fleetwide

By the PEO-EIS Public Affairs Office

The Program Executive Office for Enterprise Information Systems released a quality-of-life enhancement that became available fleetwide on February 7 with the final shipboard installation of the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS).

As the Navy's Web-enabled pay and personnel management system, NSIPS provides field level standardized and integrated pay and personnel records management capability for all 374,687 Navy active and Reserve members. The final installation occurred aboard the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) and marked the achievement of full operational capability — the last major acquisition milestone for the NSIPS program.

"The ability to easily and reliably access their pay and personnel records from around the fleet is an immense enhancement because it gives our Navy members a tool to help manage their career," said Cmdr. Susan Eaton, NSIPS program manager. "Having NSIPS and the Electronic Service Record (ESR) available fleetwide enables timely and accurate pay changes and provides Sailors at sea or shore commands with ready access to their service record data. Sailors can focus on their mission rather than worrying about whether or not their records are up to date."

In October 2006, the Chief of Navy Personnel (CNO N1) authorized the use of the ESR for service record management. ESR replaces the current paper-based Field Service Record with an electronic records management application. It automates most service record maintenance, and provides individual service members with secure Web access to service record data.

ESR was initially deployed to the Navy Reserve in February 2004, providing Reservists with the capability to update civilian employment information.

The system ensures unprecedented safety and security of Navy pay and personnel records by requiring individual validation for entering, changing, viewing and downloading information.

NSIPS utilizes state-of-the-art technology with a defense-in-depth and multitiered architecture to provide maximum data safety and security from external threats. NSIPS is the only Navy program that is completely hosted on the Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) for the shore component of the application. The system is operational at 351 shore sites and on 151 ships.

The PEO-EIS develops, acquires and deploys naval enterprise-wide networks and information systems. This portfolio of projects and programs include the NMCI, Navy Enterprise Resource Planning (Navy ERP), Global Combat Support System-Marine Corps (GCSS-MC), Total Force Authorizations and Requirements System (TFARS), Navy manpower and personnel programs and NSIPS.

These programs provide information technology capabilities as well as enable common business processes to Sailors, Marines and the organizations that support them.

For more information go to the SPAWAR Web site at http://enterprise.spawar.navy.mil and click on the PEO-EIS program seal. CHIPS